U.S. Halts A-Flights Over Spain

Post Herald

MADRID, Jan. 25 (UPI) The crash of a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber with atomic weapons aboard eight days ago has resulted in the indefinite suspension of all American nuclear bomber flights over Spain, highly reliable sources said tonight.

French sources in Madrid said the nuclear flight ban was ordered by the U.S. Government and was not at the request of Spanish officials.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman would only comment, "It is not in the national interest to discuss the movement of nuclear armament," he said.

The sources said the flights of nuclear bombers over Spain were halted the same day the B-52 crashed.

The report came as the U.S. Navy stepped up its search for a nuclear weapon still missing in the crash of the bomber. It was believed that the weapon may be on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea off the southeast coast of Spain.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet dispatched a destroyer leader and a repair ship to the water off Palomares to join two minesweepers that have been probing the area since Sunday.